

Heads up: It's time for another hobbyist's quiz

By Roger Boye

Collectors who can't score at least 60 percent on our biannual quiz are letting their hobby skills get scorched in the summer sun.

1. Federal law states that an eagle be depicted on coins with a face value of 25 cents or more. What does the bird symbolize?

2. Designs on almost all U.S. coins rise above the surface. Name the only two regular-issue series with incuse, or "recessed," numbers and letters.

3. A "jugate specialist" collects [a] two-headed coins, [b] gold-plated silver medals, [c] \$2 bills or [d] merchant tokens worth 20 cents in trade.

4. Of the five men depicted on U.S. coins made for circulation, only Abraham Lincoln faces to the right. What's the significance of this?

5. The term "cartwheel" originated in [a] Western mining towns that used silver dollars, [b] 18th-Century England, [c] a speech by coin collector Theodore Roosevelt or [d] cities with legalized gambling.

6. True or false: "Fiat money," currency issued without the backing of gold or silver, usually cannot be converted into coins of the same face value.

7. If all the gold ever mined in the world were stacked in one place, it would [a] fill about half of Lake Michigan, [b] cover Chicago to a depth of 22 feet, [c] fill the insides of five buildings the size of the Sears Tower or [d] cover a football field to a depth of about three feet.

8. A stack of 1,000 \$1 bills would weigh about [a] nine ounces, [b] two pounds, [c] 18 pounds or [d] 47 pounds.

9. The reverse of the \$5 bill shows the Lincoln Memorial [Abe is on the front]. What's on the back of the \$10 and \$20 bills?

10. "Radar notes" are printed by collectors of paper money because they [a] are sharply printed, [b] are smaller than normal, [c] bear serial numbers that read the same forward and backward or [d] are printed off center.

Answers:

1. Courage, power and majesty. An eagle with spread wings, as on the tails side of the Washington quarter, also symbolizes protection.

2. The \$2.50 and \$5 gold pieces minted from 1908 to 1929, the so-called Indian-head varieties.

3. A. Several commemorative half dollars minted earlier this century each depict two persons on the heads side.

4. None; it's a mere coincidence.

5. B. Hobby lore suggests it was used in referring to large British copper coins dated 1797.

6. True

7. D.

8. B.

9. The U.S. Treasury building is on the back of the \$10 bill [Alexander Hamilton, first Treasury secretary, is on the front], and the White House is on the back of the \$20 [seventh President Andrew Jackson is on the front].

10. C. An example is 18544581.